

Duxbury



Clipper

Foster Trainer Has Quaintest Boat House In Duxbury

THE quaintest building in Duxbury is perhaps a former corn house with the American flag painted on it. Mr. Foster M. Trainer, who bought the shed five years ago and moved it from the corner of Washington St. and Partridge Rd., to his property on Upland Rd., uses it as a boat house. It was being used as a hen house when he bought it.

Tacked on an inside wall is the will left by George Higgins, a Civil War Veteran whose daughter, Miss Sara Higgins served for so many years as librarian of the Duxbury Free Library. She died at the age of 80 in 1936 in her home on Washington St., and is buried in Maydower cemetery. In the will, whose instructions she so faithfully followed, is the unusual clause that called for the inclusion of more stars in the flag as new states were added to the Union. Here is the will:

"BE IT REMEMBERED that I, George L. Higgins of Duxbury in the County of Plymouth and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being of sound mind and memory, but knowing the uncertainty of this life, do make this my LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.

"After the payment of my just debts and funeral charges, I bequeath and devise as follows:

"To my three daughters, viz: Lucy P. Higgins, Rosalie R. Garland, and Sarah B. Higgins, and to my stepson Charles M. Hayden, all of my Homestead property, including the land and all the buildings that belong to me thereon, also all of my farming tools for their use and benefit so long as they may live—And it is my expressed wish, and desire, that no part of the Real Estate be disposed of except by an agreement of a majority of the heirs—And that when either of the above mentioned heirs may die that their part shall revert back to the Estate—as it is my desire that the Old Homestead be kept in my name so long as it may be possible.

"As I faithfully served my Country in the War of the Rebellion—it is my desire and request that the American Flag—which is now painted upon my Corn House—be kept well painted, and as new States may be added to the Union—new stars be placed in proper order, as by a pattern shewn—and that may be found in my tool chest.

"In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand, and in the presence of three witnesses declare this to be my

last will, this Eleventh day of August in the year one thousand nine hundred and Four.

George L. Higgins
"On this Eleventh day of August A.D. 1904 George L. Higgins of Duxbury, Massachusetts, has signed the foregoing instrument in our presence, declaring it to be his last will, and as witness thereof we three do now, at his request, in his presence, and in the presence of each other, hereto subscribe our names.

Joshua M. Cushing,

William Facey,

William W. Wadsworth,

Walter H. Gilday, Register."

Here is a letter Miss Higgins wrote to a Mr. Turner a short time before she died. It is dated Dec. 13, 1935.

A Pathetic Letter

"Your letter of last week pleased me very much. First it was written on my Father's birthday, Dec. 8. You wrote with such keen appreciation of what he endeavored to do. My brother, Father's step-son, who always fulfilled his desire and wish in keeping the flag well painted, died the 6th of February, just a year ago.

"I would love to show you this tool chest, wherein may be found the pattern of the star, if I am ever able to get down stairs. I could only get about my rooms in the chambers on crutches and have been thus disabled for several years. My hands have been so crippled that it is most painful to write and the explanation of the long delay in answering your very kind letter. I enclose a little photo, taken by a reporter of a Boston paper, the last time my brother painted it.

"Thank you for the paper which you so kindly sent. I would be pleased to see you if you would care to call should you be in Duxbury.

Very sincerely yours,

Sara B. Higgins."

There are 48 states painted on the old corn house owned by the George Higgins who died early in the century. And if Hawaii, or Alaska is added to the Union, we suspect that out of sentimental memory for the Civil War Veteran, Mr. Trainer will add another star.